

# Lisela language

**Lisela** (Indonesian: *bahasa Lisela*), also called Li Enyorot,<sup>[3]</sup> is an Austronesian language; in 1989 it was spoken by about 11,900 Lisela people mostly living in the northern part of Indonesian island Buru (Indonesian: *Pulau Buru*). It is also preserved among the small Lisela community on the Ambon Island.<sup>[4]</sup>

The language belongs to the Sula–Buru group of Central Maluku branch of Malayo-Polynesian languages. It has two dialects, major Lisela and minor Tagalisa, the latter is used by the inhabitants of the north-east coast of Buru.<sup>[4][5][6]</sup> The language is dying as most Lisela people switch either to the national language of Indonesia, Indonesian, or to the Ambonese variety of the Malay language (*Melayu Ambon*). The latter is widely used in the Maluku Islands as a lingua franca and is a local form of Malay with additions of the local lexicon.<sup>[4][5]</sup>

The language most closely related to Lisela is Buru, especially its dialect *Masarete* – their lexical similarity is 68%.<sup>[7]</sup> Thus many sources regard Lisela as a dialect, though the most diverging, of Buru. Lisela had also borrowed much from the Sula language, as a result of the interaction between the Lisela and Sula people living together as the northern Buru coast.<sup>[3]</sup> The language has no writing system. The most detailed study of Lisela language was conducted in the 1980s by Charles E. Grimes and Barbara Dix Grimes – Australian missionaries and ethnographers, active members of SIL International (they should not be confused with Joseph E. Grimes and Barbara F. Grimes, Charles' parents, also known Australian ethnographers).<sup>[8][9][10]</sup>

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Lisela	
<i>bahasa Lisela</i>	
Native to	Indonesia, Maluku
Region	Buru Island
Native speakers	(12,000 cited 1989) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	Austronesian <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Central–Eastern<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Central Maluku<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sula–Buru<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Buru<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Lisela</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
Writing system	none
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	lcl
Glottolog	lise1239 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/lise1239">http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/lise1239</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

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  10. "Chuck & Barbara Grimes, Wycliffe Bible Translators" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20101019172229/http://bg.org/missions/grimes-jr.html>). Bethel Grove Bible Church. Archived from the original (<http://www.bg.org/missions/grimes-jr.html>) on 2010-10-19.
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